

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /079 W

-----230412Z 071082 /22

R 221520Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5722

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1090

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, UR

SUBJECT: GRUBYAKOV VISIT TO CYPRUS APRIL 16-19

REF: NICOSIA 0988 (DTG 131545Z APR 77)

SUMMARY: APRIL 16-19 VISIT OF SOVIET DELEGATION HEADED BY SENIOR
FONMIN OFFICIAL GRUBYAKOV WAS A LACKLUSTER AFFAIR AND PROBABLY A
NET DEBIT TO THE RUSSIAN STANDING IN CYPRUS IN BOTH COMMUNITIES.

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END SUMMARY.

1. SOVIET DELEGATION, HEADED BY SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIAL VASILY GRUBYAKOV, VISITED CYPRUS APRIL 16-19. ON
ARRIVAL, GRUBYAKOV SAID PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS "EXCHANGE
OF VIEWS ON QUESTIONS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND INTER-
NATIONAL PROBLEMS."

2. CHRONOLOGICALLY, VISIT CONSISTED OF MEETINGS WITH GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR TASSOS PAPADOPOULOS AND TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH, BOTH ON APR 18, AND A CALL ON GOC FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES APR 19. A MEETING THAT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED WITH HOUSE PRESIDENT AND FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER SPYROS KYPRIANOU WAS CANCELLED DUE TO KYPRIANOU'S SUDDEN HOSPITALIZATION.

3. NO STATEMENT WAS ISSUED FOLLOWING THE MEETING WITH PAPADOPOULOS.

4. AFTER GRUBYAKOV'S MEETING WITH DENKTASH, LATTER INFORMED THE PRESS THAT MEETING HAD BEEN CORDIAL, THAT GRUBYAKOV HAD COME TO LISTEN AND UNDERSTAND, THAT HE HAD NOT RAISED QUESTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, AND THAT THE SOVIET UNION OPPOSES OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN CYPRUS' INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND SUPPORTS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES. GRUBYAKOV, SPEAKING BRIEFLY AND IN TURKISH, GAVE A BLAND GENERAL EXPRESSION OF THE SOVIET UNION'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE CYPRUS QUESTION.

5. THERE WAS NO PUBLIC STATEMENT FOLLOWING MEETING WITH FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES.

6. IN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE ON DEPARTURE, GRUBYAKOV REITERATED USUAL SOVIET EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT AND INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF CYPRIOT STATE, MAINTAINED THAT SOVIET PROPOSAL TO HOLD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE REMAINS VALID, DECLINED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMENT ON ANY USSR ROLE AS GUARANTOR OF POSSIBLE CYPRUS SOLUTION AND PREDICTED "LONG WORK AND EFFORT" BY TWO COMMUNITIES BEFORE ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION IS FOUND. GRUBYAKOV AVOIDED DIRECT ANSWERS TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS, INCLUDING TWO FROM LOCAL COMMUNIST JOURNALIST. AS PRESS CONFERENCE WAS COVERED EXTENSIVELY BY LOCAL TV IN MAIN EVENING NEWSCAST APR 19, A GENERALLY NEGATIVE IMPRESSION OF GRUBYAKOV'S EVASIVENESS WAS REGISTERED THROUGHOUT GREEK CYPRUS.

7. WITH THE PREDICTABLE EXCEPTIONS OF THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER HARAVGHI AND SOCIALIST TA NEA, GRUBYAKOV VISIT DID NOT IMPRESS THE GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS. MOST TREATMENT CRITICISED THE SOVIET POSITION ON CYPRUS AS BEING ALL WORDS AND NO ACTION. FROM THE SOVIET STANDPOINT, VISIT WAS FURTHER MARRED BY WIDESPREAD REPLAY IN THE GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS OF THE GUARDIAN ARTICLE WHICH IDENTIFIED GRUBYAKOV AS A KGB OFFICER WHO HAD TRIED TO UPSET GREEK/TURKISH RELATIONS WITH A MALICIOUS DISINFORMATION EFFORT WHILE SERVING AS SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN ANKARA.

8. ONLY PRESS COMMENT ON THE TURKISH CYPRIOT SIDE WAS IN PRO-DENKTASH ZAMAN, WHICH SAID THAT TURKISH CYPRIOTS WERE PLEASED GRUBYAKOV HAD COME ONLY TO LISTEN, AND NOTED THAT BOTH SOVIETS AND THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS SUPPORT AN INDEPENDENT AND A NON-ALIGNED CYPRUS, AS WELL AS REMOVAL OF BRITISH BASES.

9. COMMENT: BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE GRUBYAKOV VISIT, WE DISCUSSED IT WITH GOC FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES AND OTHER OFFICIALS. WE TAKE AS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT THEIR ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET INTENTIONS AND THE GREEK CYPRIOT REACTION: THAT SOVIET PARTY ASKED TO MAKE THE TRIP AS AN ADJUNCT OF ITS OFFICIAL VISIT TO ATHENS, AND THAT ITS PURPOSE WAS TO TRY TO REGAIN SOME PUBLIC ATTENTION FOR THEIR ASSERTED INTEREST IN THE CYPRUS PROBLEM TO COUNTER THE NOW WIDESPREAD FEELING AMONG GREEK CYPRIOTS THAT THE US IS THE MOST LIKELY SOURCE OF EFFECTIVE HELP.

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Message Attributes

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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2722089
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GRUBYAKOV VISIT TO CYPRUS APRIL 16-19
TAGS: PFOR, CY, UR, (GRUBYAKOV, VASILY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/db1c8ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009